

## WASHINGTON.

## PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT.

## Deserters Disfranchised Unless They Report Within Sixty Days.

## John P. Hale Appointed Minister to Spain.

## Important Decisions of the Supreme Court.

## The Red River Prize Cotton Cases Settled.

## The Navy Has No Interest in the Captures.

## General Banks' Election in Louisiana of No Effect.

## Condemnation of Slave Trading Vessels and Cargoes.

## THE NEW ENROLMENT ACT.

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Whereas, the twenty-first section of the act of Congress approved on the 3d instant, entitled "An act to amend the several acts heretofore passed, to provide for the enrolling and calling out the national forces and for other purposes," requires that in addition to the other lawful penalties of the crime of desertion from the military or naval service, all persons who have deserted the military or naval service of the United States who shall not return to said service or report themselves to a provost marshal within sixty days after the proclamation heretofore mentioned, shall be deemed and taken to have voluntarily relinquished and forfeited their rights of citizenship and their right to become citizens, and such deserters shall be forever incapable of holding any office of trust or profit under the United States or of exercising any rights of citizens thereof, and all persons who shall hereafter desert the military or naval service, and all persons who being duly enrolled shall depart the jurisdiction of the district in which he is enrolled or go beyond the limits of the United States with intent to avoid any draft into the military or naval service duly ordered, shall be liable to the penalties of this section; and the President is hereby authorized and required forthwith on the passage of this act to issue his proclamation, setting forth the provisions of this section, in which proclamation the President is requested to notify all deserters returning within sixty days, as aforesaid, that they shall be pardoned on condition of returning to their regiments and companies, or to such other organizations as they may be assigned to until they shall have served for a period of time equal to their original term of enlistment."

Now, therefore, be it known that I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, do issue this my proclamation, as required by said act, ordering and requiring all deserters to return to their proper posts; and I do hereby notify them that all deserters who shall, within sixty days from the date of this proclamation, viz., on or before the 10th day of May, 1865, return to service or report themselves to a provost marshal, shall be pardoned, on condition that they return to their regiments and companies, or to such other organizations as they may be assigned to and serve the remainder of their original terms of enlistment, and in addition thereto, a period equal to the time lost by desertion.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this 11th day of March, in the year of our Lord 1865, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-ninth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President:  
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

WASHINGTON, March 10, 1865.

## AN EARLY RESUMPTION OF SPECIFIC PAYMENTS EX-

It is the expectation of the new Secretary of the Treasury, that from the proceeds of the large amounts of Southern products known to have fallen into the hands of our victorious army, a fund will soon be accumulated which will enable the government to resume specific payments much sooner than is generally believed.

## JOHN P. HALE OUR MINISTER TO SPAIN.

Hon. John P. Hale, of New Hampshire, has been appointed and confirmed as Minister to Spain. This nomination has taken by surprise some of the particular personal friends of Mr. Lincoln, who have been systematically presented by Mr. Hale for two years past. They say the surest way to the President's favor is to oppose his policy and abuse his friends.

## IMPORTANT DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT RE-

WARDING RECONSTRUCTION AND PRIZE CASES. An important decision was rendered by Chief Justice Chase, in the Supreme Court, to-day, which settles the policy of reconstruction. It arose on the great prize case growing out of the cotton captured by the Mississippi squadron during the Red River expedition. During the military occupation of the Red River country, in March last, the navy seized large amounts of cotton on the plantations near the river. The cotton was sent to Cairo, and libelled in the Southern District Court of Illinois as lawful prize for the navy. Nearly all the cotton seized was claimed by private individuals. The case appealed was that of the United States against seventy-two bales of cotton, Elizabeth Alexander, claimant. The court below decided in favor of the claimant, and the United States appealed. The counsel for the government and the navy claimed, in their argument before the Supreme Court, that the cotton was the property of the United States, and was captured in an enemy's country, and was vendible as prize of war. The claimant's counsel denied the right of land captures by the navy, and also claimed that the country at the time of the seizure of the cotton was not enemy's country, but occupied by the Union forces; that an election was held and delegates elected to a constitutional convention, which had met, abolished slavery and established a civil government, thus securing to the people all the rights and privileges of citizens of the United States.

## Chief Justice Chase delivered the opinion of the court below, sustaining the decision of the court below, and decided that the cotton was not a prize of war, and that the navy could take no prize interest in the proceeds. The court also held that the cotton should have been turned over to an agent of the Treasury Department, also that it should have been disposed of in pursuance of the act of Congress of March 12, 1863. This set allows legal claimants to recover proceeds of the property in the Court of Claims. In addition to this, the court decided that the election held in that part of Louisiana, during Gen. Banks' occupation, and in pursuance of his orders, was null, void and of no effect. The federal occupation was declared of so short duration as to not remove the character of the enemy's country. The court directed the libel to be dismissed.

## DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT IN SLAVE TRADE CASES.

Three cases arising under the law for the suppression of the slave trade were decided to-day in the Supreme Court—among them the case of the Sarah. In each of these cases the decision of the court below was affirmed, and the vessels and cargoes condemned.

## ADJOURNMENT OF THE SUPREME COURT.

The Supreme Court adjourned to-day until the first Monday in December next.

## IMPORTANT TO ARMY PAYMASTERS.

In order to prevent the accumulation of surplus funds in the hands of paymasters, the Paymaster General has directed chiefs of pay districts to require paymasters

within their jurisdiction to pay over monthly, to some officer designated for that purpose, all surplus funds in their possession.

## REVISION OF TRADE REGULATIONS.

It is understood to be the intention of the Secretary of the Treasury to revise, as soon as possible, all the trade regulations heretofore adopted, and make them more practical and available for the purposes for which they were intended.

## AFFAIRS AT MATAMOROS.

A gentleman who has recently arrived from Matamoras, Mexico, reports affairs as very unsatisfactory in that vicinity. Persons who declare their sympathy with the Union cause are subjected to a renewal of the old Texas house knife reign of terror if they do not submit.

## APPOINTMENTS CONFIRMED.

William C. Chandler, of New Hampshire, has been confirmed by the Senate as Solicitor and Judge Advocate General of the Navy Department, provision having been made for such office by recent act of Congress.

The Senate has also confirmed the nominations of Arnold Kinkel as Judge of the United States District Court in the Western district of Missouri, and of Samuel Board as postmaster at Chicago.

The Senate has confirmed the following to be major generals by brevet:—

Brigadier General John W. Turner, G. C. Andrews, John W. Mcullen, Charles Curtis, Henry E. Davis and Alfred Sully.

Brevet Brigadier General Swayne is confirmed as brigadier general.

The following nominations have been confirmed as brigadier generals by brevet:—

Colonel George M. Love, 11th New York.

Colonel James A. Hall, Maine artillery.

Colonel Charles Albright, 22d Pennsylvania.

Colonel W. H. Henry, Ninth Vermont.

Colonel Ambrose A. Stevens, Fifth regiment veteran reserve corps.

Colonel Thos. W. Bennett, Sixty-ninth Indiana.

Colonel Henry S. Conant, Sixty-seventh Illinois cavalry.

Colonel James H. True, Sixty-seventh Illinois.

Colonel W. H. Henry, Ninth Vermont.

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## THE REBEL ARMIES.

## RAPID DEPLETION BY DESERTIONS.

## LEE'S VETERANS DISGUSTED.

## The Soldiers Proclaim the Confederacy "Gone Up."

## The Rebel General Longstreet Proposes to Exchange Deserters.

## Our Correspondence on the Subject from All Parts of the Scene of War.

## One of the surest signs of the hastening end of the rebel cause is made visible in the rapid depletion and disintegration of its armies by desertions, and the moral effect of such a process is not to be estimated.

The soldiers of the rebel army are becoming more and more disgusted with the cause, and are beginning to look upon the Confederacy as a lost cause. The soldiers are becoming more and more disgusted with the cause, and are beginning to look upon the Confederacy as a lost cause.

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